

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE <b>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>	<b>HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:</b> <b>Pocatello, Idaho</b>
	<b>REPORT FOR:</b> <b>MONTH: April      YEAR: 2005</b>
<b>TO:</b> Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	<b>SIGNATURE</b>  Sherrie Hebert Service Hydrologist <b>DATE: May 11, 2005</b>
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: 40px;">X</div>	<b>An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.</b>

Pocatello's request for a long, cool, wet spring was granted for the month of April with precipitation coming in nearly 150% of normal – a welcome relief to the now six-year drought. The drought, however, indeed still exists due to low reservoirs averaging 66% of normal, continued low Surface Water Supply Indices averaging -2.58 and May 1 water supply forecasts ranging from 25% in the Big Wood River drainage to 70% in the Upper Snake basins.

### Other Hydrologic Interests

#### **Precipitation**

April precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 142.3% of normal for 38 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. All reporting stations received above normal precipitation with the exception of only six stations. Nearly one quarter of the stations received greater than double normal precip, which are in the table below.

Station Name	Precip (inches)	Normal (inches)	Percent of Normal
Burley 2 S	2.83	0.94	301.1
Paul	2.32	0.83	279.5
Oakley	3.15	1.21	260.3
Malad Airport	3.20	1.23	260.2
Aberdeen	2.10	0.83	253.0
Malta Aviation	2.72	1.09	249.5
Minidoka Dam	2.10	0.87	241.4
Lifton Pumping Station	2.49	1.04	239.4
Howe	1.34	0.66	203.0

Those stations receiving less than 75% of normal precip include Tetonia at 63.8%, Challis at 42.9% and the least being Ketchum Ranger Station at 42.4%.

The Pocatello Regional Airport broke a daily precipitation record on April 4 with 0.46 inches, surpassing the old record of 0.39 inches set in 1939.

## Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 66% of capacity<sup>1</sup>, up 10% from April 5, 2005.

Reservoir	% Capacity March 31 <sup>2</sup>	% Capacity April 30 <sup>3</sup>	Percent Change	% of Average <sup>3</sup>	% of Last Year <sup>3</sup>
American Falls	84	88	4	99	127
Bear Lake	3	17	14	25	112
Blackfoot	11	20	9	28	115
Henry's Lake	77	80	3	83	99
Island Park	70	83	13	91	99
Little Wood	69	96	27	118	97
Mackay	82	61	-21	79	106
Magic	19	29	10	37	72
Oakley	24	33	9	60	122
Palisades	51	61	10	98	120
Ririe	45	58	13	83	105
Lake Walcott	23 <sup>4</sup>	23 <sup>5</sup>	0	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), May 11, 2005; (2) NRCS, March 31, 2005; (3) NRCS, April 30, 2005; (4) BOR, April 4, 2005; (5) BOR, May 11, 2005.

## Drought

Currently eight Idaho county emergency drought declarations exist for 2005, seven of which are in Eastern Idaho. Eastern Idaho counties include Butte, March 28 declaration, Custer, Bonneville, Bingham, Madison, Fremont and Power, most recent with an April 27 declaration.

Eastern Idaho also remains entirely in the D3, "Extreme" and D4, "Exceptional" categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values, and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

## Hydrologic Product Summary

No hydrologic products were issued in January.

cc: Melissa Smith, WFO Hydrology Program Manager  
Harold Opitz, HIC NWRFC  
Hydrometeorological Information Center  
Jim Meyer, MIC PIH  
Jay Breidenbach, SH BOI  
Greg Kaiser, Storm Data Focal Point PIH